

Big West Big Shot:

Track star Maggie Vessey earns Big West title in the 800 meter, 12

PDA, No Way: Take affection somewhere else, 4

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

High: 71°
Low: 50°



Mustang DAILY

Thursday, May 29, 2003
Volume LXVII, Number 138, 1916-2003

Poly, Unocal work to restore coast

► Biology, engineering students research, work at Guadalupe Dunes

By Dale Quinn

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Brown pelicans soar above shifting sands, unaware that beneath the dunes and wildlife, petroleum contamination threatens the fragile ecosystem.

Leaky oil pipes jeopardized the sensitive habitat at Guadalupe Dunes, and Cal Poly now works with Unocal to restore the coastal environment.

Biological science and environmental engineering students have conducted research in the field and laboratory settings and compiled the information to determine the effects of various remediation processes on the contaminated dunes.

G. Todd Ririe, environmental technical services manager for Unocal, said a private company like Unocal does not have the same research capacity as a university. For this reason, the corporation's relationship with the university has provided them with valuable research.

"We can understand how to better restore this environment and what sort of things we should do to speed up that cleaning process," Ririe said.

According to the Guadalupe Restoration Project Web site, the oil field produced petroleum from 1940

to 1994. In the 1950s, diluent, a hydrocarbon, was added to the wells to ease the flow of the crude oil. Over the years the diluent began to leak from the pipelines, contaminating areas near and below the surface.

Cal Poly is now one of several groups working to reduce the plumes of diluent.

The relationship between Unocal and Cal Poly has existed for six years, said biological sciences professor Chris Kitts. In the 1990s, under instruction from the Water Control Board, Unocal took the responsibility of decontaminating the ground water in the Guadalupe dunes. The presence of endangered plant and animal life at the dunes made the process a significant challenge, Kitts said.

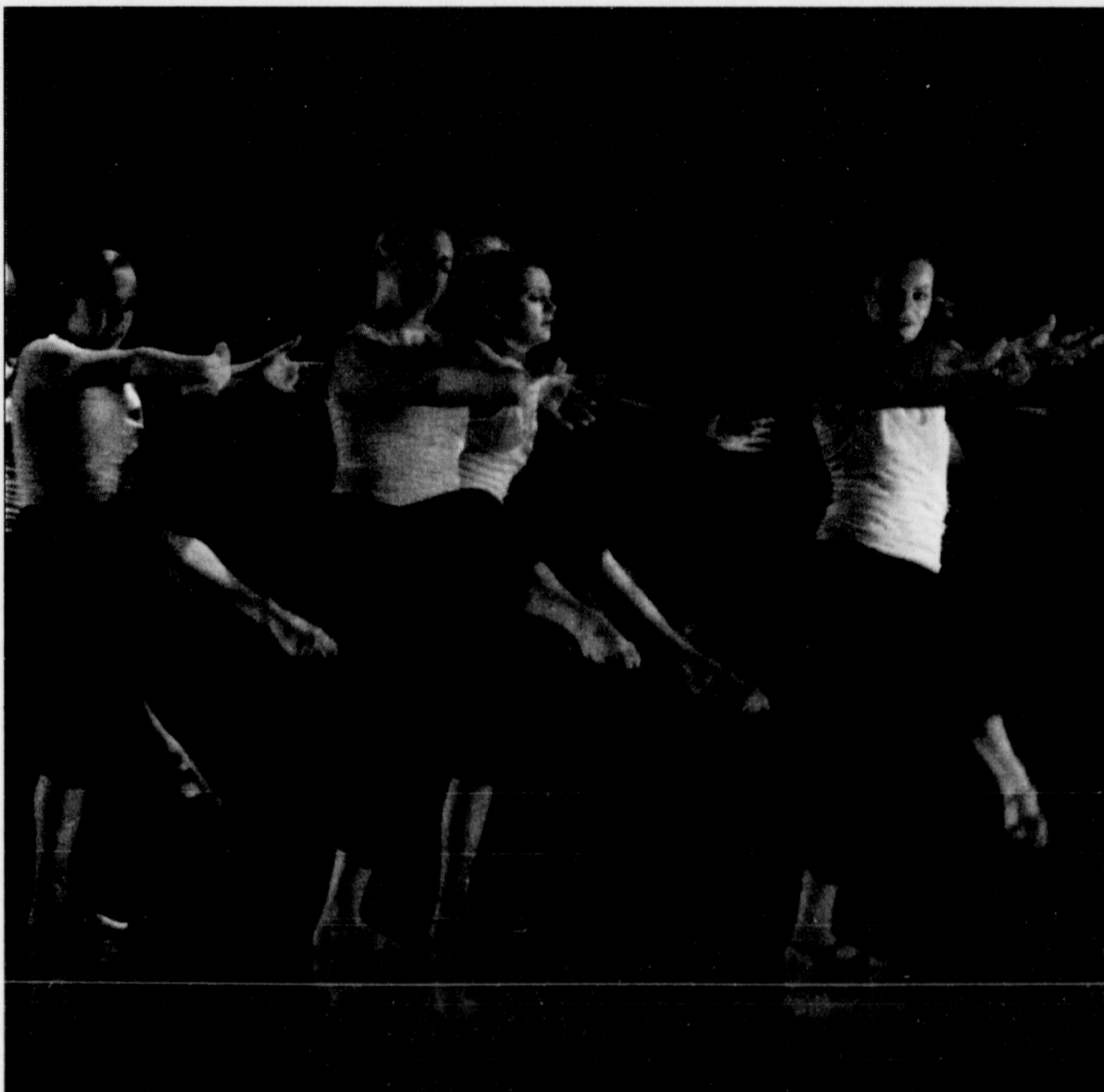
The research Cal Poly has conducted determines the extent to which the natural environment has already repaired itself and how technology can be used to contribute to that process.

"Everything we're doing is giving evidence that the environment is doing something," Kitts said. "We're helping with assessing the use of other technologies such as the land treatment, the use of willow trees and phytoremediation."

Phytoremediation is the use of native plants to slow the flow of groundwater so that the contaminants can break down. Land treatment, including factors such as aera-

see DUNES, page 10

Dancing machines



ERIC HENDERSON/MUSTANG DAILY

Orchesis Dance Company is Cal Poly's oldest concert dance organization. Participants performed numerous kinds of dance, including jazz, ballet, hip-hop, modern, tap and ballroom at their 2003 Student Dance Show Wednesday night. Above, performers dance to Avril Lavigne's "Losing Grip" in a segment titled "So Alone."

Health Center regulates morning after pill

By Amanda Hippe

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The popular emergency contraceptive Plan B is now available without a prescription in many California drugstores; however, the Cal Poly Health Center will still only give the drug to those with a prescription.

Currently, female students who have engaged in unprotected sex and feel they want to take extra precautions can make an appointment with a doctor or nurse practitioner for an evaluation and advisement.

"We have many (women) come in and flat out ask for the morning after pill," said director of Nursing Services Marina Perez. "It is not an uncommon request."

Plan B is a high dosage of birth control to prevent any fertilization from happening. Perez said it is like a dam preventing a flood.

Although Cal Poly requires a prescription for Plan B, at other pharmacies it is still not as readily available as picking up a bottle of aspirin off a shelf.

"We have many girls come in and flat out ask for the morning after pill. It is not an uncommon request."

Marina Perez
nursing services

"It is not truly over the counter," said Jerry Davis, head pharmacist at the Health Center. "Many people get that confused with not needing a doctor's prescription. There is still an interview process that needs to happen before a woman can get the pills."

Pharmacies must go through a rigorous accreditation process to distribute pills to women who request them at the counter.

There is only one pharmacy in San Luis Obispo that has gone through a successful qualification. At Health Care Plus, located in the shopping center on the corner of Santa Rosa Avenue and Foothill Boulevard, an appointment and \$45 cash will grant access to a prescription-free portion of the emergency contraceptive.

The Cal Poly Health Center pharmacists have opted not to go for the qualifications for one reason.

"We don't need to get the qualification because our nurse practitioners are responsible for interviewing and determining patient need," Davis said.

Both Davis and Perez couldn't give exact figures of how many prescriptions have been written and filled in the last six years that the Health Center has carried an emergency contraceptive, but they did say it is a frequent request of female women.

"We are glad to give this choice to female students who don't want to further the fertilization process after unprotected intercourse hap-

see PLAN B, page 10

Cal Poly student cashes in on 'Wheel of Fortune'

By Stacey Dorning

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Practice really does make perfect.

This cliché proved to be a reality for Breanna Danis, a math senior whose dedication to practicing word puzzles earned her \$13,050 on the "Wheel of Fortune."

"We bought the computer game

before she left and sat and practiced all the time," Danis' friend and agribusiness junior Kristin Finkel said. "It was so amazing to see her do so well."

Danis' journey to become a contestant started more than a year ago when the "Wheel Mobile" came to campus last spring. After entering a

see WHEEL, page 10

Speaker discusses Hawaii

By Susan Malanche

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Warm beaches, incredible sunsets and a relaxing atmosphere are some of the attractions that Maui is most famous for, but tonight people can find out more about the dramatic changes of this island's past.

University of California, Berkeley professor and author Patrick Kirch will speak about the archaeology of Maui at 7 p.m. in the business building rotunda


(room 213). According to a press release, his presentation, "From Chiefdom to Archaic State: Recent Archaeological Research in Kahikinui, Maui," will review evidence for the late prehistoric transformation of Hawaiian society from a complex chiefdom to an "archaic state."


"There is a fascination in the United States with the Pacific Islands," anthropology professor Terry Jones said. "They


see SPEAKER, page 2


Weather Watch


5-Day Forecast

FRIDAY
High: 70° / Low: 51° 

SATURDAY
High: 74° / Low: 52° 

SUNDAY
High: 75° / Low: 52° 

MONDAY
High: 75° / Low: 52° 

TUESDAY
High: 77° / Low: 52° 

Today's Sun

Rises: 5:50 a.m. / Sets: 8:10 p.m.

Today's Moon

Rises: 4:56 a.m. / Sets: 7:06 p.m.

Today's Tides

Low: 4:17 a.m. / - .24 feet
High: 10:45 a.m. / 3.4 feet
Low: 3:15 p.m. / 2.1 feet
High: 9:28 p.m. / 5.5 feet

Crime Round-Up

Mustang Daily

May 21: Thirty-five dollars in cash and memory chips from a digital camera were stolen from the business building.

— A cell phone was reported stolen on campus at the University Police Department. *I guess we can't hear you now.*

— A Sequoia Hall resident reported damage to his laptop computer. *Please tell me that the recording industry isn't physically assaulting the computers of those who illegally download MP3s.*

— A blue 2002 Subaru station wagon was initially reported stolen from the H-2 parking lot. The vehicle was later located parked by Campus Market and no report was made.

May 22: Hubcaps were stolen from a Volkswagen in the R-2 parking lot. *People still do that?*

May 25: A 19-year-old male Cal Poly student was pulled over on Foothill at Mustang Village for suspicion drunk driving at 1:45 a.m. He was arrested and booked into San Luis Obispo County Jail for driving under the influence of alcohol. *This guy must not have good friends, because everybody knows friends don't let friends drive drunk.*

May 27: Two incidents of fraud occurred in the C-4 parking lot. Both vehicles were cited for altered parking permits.

— A red specialized Hard Rock bicycle was stolen from a rack in the rear of Sierra Madre Hall. The bike was valued at less than \$400.

— A surfboard was stolen from a resident in Muir Hall. *Come on, surfboards are pretty freaking big. Somebody had to have seen something.*

— Compiled by Mustang Daily staff writer Andy Fahey

What's Going On

Coming up this week

***Physics Colloquium** - Physics professor Declan Mulhall will speak on quantum chaos and nuclear structure today from 11 a.m. to noon in building 52, room C36.

***Blood Drive** - The Tri-Counties Blood Bank mobile will be available on Mott Lawn today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

***BMX and Band Blowout** - ASI is hosting this event, which will feature the Ford Focus Californopia Tour. The action sports and music festival will take place Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. in the H16 parking lot (north of Campus Market). Local bands A Long Story Short, Siko, New Tomorrow and national headliner Eek-A-Mouse will perform.

***Playground Promenade** - A 5K and 10K walk/run is planned for Saturday to raise money for the ASI Children's Center's playground. Registration begins at 8:30 and registration fees are \$20 for students and \$30 for faculty and staff members.

***Soul Invasion** - Three KCPR DJs will host a night of soul, funk and grooves at Z-Pie on Saturday from 10 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

SPEAKER

continued from page 1

represent an image of tropical paradise."

The public will learn about Polynesia's prehistoric past, he said. Jones said there are four different types of political structures in the world. The two most complex of these forms are chiefdoms and states, he said.

"People are not aware of it, but the

islands have a very dramatic and fascinating past," Jones said. "The simple fact that people founded these islands 1,500 years ago is a pretty interesting topic."

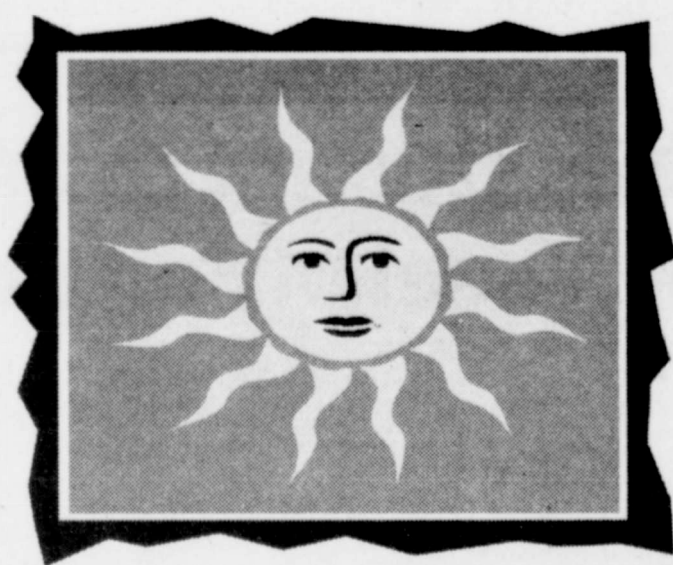
Social sciences department chairman Patrick McKim said the public can expect to walk away with a lot of interesting information.

"Everybody loves Hawaii," McKim said. "But I bet they know next to nothing about what it was like in pre-modern times."

Before Hawaii was invaded by Europeans, it was a relatively isolated society with little contact, McKim said.

Kirch is curator of oceanic archaeology at UC Berkeley's Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology. Cal Poly's Social Sciences Department and Social Sciences Student Club are sponsoring this free event to the public.

"Kirch is perhaps the world's leading author on Polynesian archaeology," Jones said.



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National Briefs

Bush hopes to have three-way summit with Palestinian, Israeli leaders

WASHINGTON — President Bush plans to engage in a three-way summit in Jordan next week with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, the White House announced Wednesday.

Despite recent setbacks to the peace process, Bush hopes to "focus on moving forward," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said in announcing the planned meeting.

McClellan said that Bush would also go separately to Egypt next week to meet with Arab leaders, and to Qatar, headquarters of the U.S. Central Command, to meet with U.S. troops.

The meeting with Sharon and Abbas will occur in the Jordanian Red Sea port city of Aqaba, McClellan said.

He said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat will not be invited.

The president will depart the G-8 summit in Evian, France, early to focus on Middle East peace issues, the White House said. After participating in a series of meetings, a luncheon and dinner, Bush will leave for Egypt to talk with Arab leaders before a planned summit meeting in Jordan with the Israeli and Palestinian prime ministers.

Study: Availability of condoms doesn't increase likelihood of teens having sex

WASHINGTON — Teenagers at high schools where condoms were

available were no more likely to have sex than other teens, a study published Wednesday finds.

The study confirms earlier research on the programs developed in the 1990s to stem the spread of HIV and reduce teen pregnancy. It found that students in high schools with condom programs were more likely to use condoms, though students in other high schools were more likely to use other forms of birth control.

Some conservative groups have staunchly opposed such programs, saying they send the wrong message and in effect encourage and enable teens to have sex before marriage.

Researchers writing in the American Journal of Public Health examined high schools in Massachusetts, where the state Department of Education encouraged schools to develop condom programs. In most cases, the condoms were available from the school nurse or from other personnel such as a gym teacher.

Suspect in Louisiana killings arrested peacefully outside Atlanta tire store

ATLANTA — A man suspected in the killings of five women was arrested peacefully outside a tire store and agreed Wednesday to be returned to Louisiana, ending a months-long manhunt in a case that terrified women across that state.

Derrick Todd Lee was taken into custody by three police officers Tuesday evening, Atlanta Police Chief Richard Pennington said. Authorities had just missed apprehending Lee at a homeless shelter and then at a motel.

"We have taken a very dangerous

person that is a serial murder suspect off the streets," Pennington said.

Lee, 34, appeared in court Wednesday and waived extradition.

Lee told Fulton County Superior Court Judge Richard Hicks in a quiet voice that he understood the charges and would not fight the transfer to Louisiana. Louisiana officers were in the courtroom during the brief hearing.

"I understand they are here and ready to take you back, so have a good trip," Hicks said. He was handed over to the officers for a flight back to Louisiana on Wednesday.

In Baton Rouge, La., officials gathered to praise the task force of local, state and federal officials that worked for months to crack the case.

"I frankly think this group has written the book" on how to investigate serial killings, Louisiana Gov. Mike Foster said.

International Briefs

China seizes wildlife from markets to halt SARS; Canada puts hundreds under quarantine

BEIJING — Forestry officials in southern China seized pheasants, foxes and other game in raids on wildlife markets under new restrictions meant to control SARS, while hundreds of people in Canada were kept under quarantine following a renewed outbreak.

A Russian hospitalized on the Chinese border was diagnosed with SARS on Wednesday, becoming Russia's first official case of the respiratory ailment, media reports said. "The diagnosis is unquestionable: This is SARS," Gennady Onishchenko, the

country's chief epidemiologist, told the Interfax news agency.

The China raids came after a World Health Organization scientist said Tuesday that SARS antibodies found in workers who handled game species at a market in southern China backed the theory that the disease jumped from animals to humans.

The WHO said the emergence of SARS in southern China in November and its spread to more than two dozen countries, infecting more than 8,000 people, has shown the need to update international health regulations.

Saudi Prince Nayef announces arrests of militants related to Riyadh bombings

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — The Saudi interior minister announced the arrests of more militants believed to have had a role in the Riyadh bombings, including a man identified by Saudi newspapers on Wednesday as an al-Qaida suspect who allegedly masterminded the attacks.

Also Wednesday, the U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Robert Jordan, said the United States was not involved in Saudi plans to seek the extradition of any Saudis who may be among al-Qaida members held in Iran and could have had a role in the Riyadh bombings. The United States has accused Iran of harboring al-Qaida suspects linked to the Riyadh bombings, charges Iran denies.

In neighboring Yemen, meanwhile, a security official said Saudi Arabia had extradited to that country four Yemeni al-Qaida suspects wanted in connection with deadly attacks at a Yemeni

port on the USS Cole in October 2000 and a French oil tanker last year.

Peru's president declares state of emergency amid growing protests

LIMA, Peru — Faced with growing protests by farmers and government workers, President Alejandro Toledo declared a 30-day state of emergency and authorized the military to clear strikers from Peru's major highways.

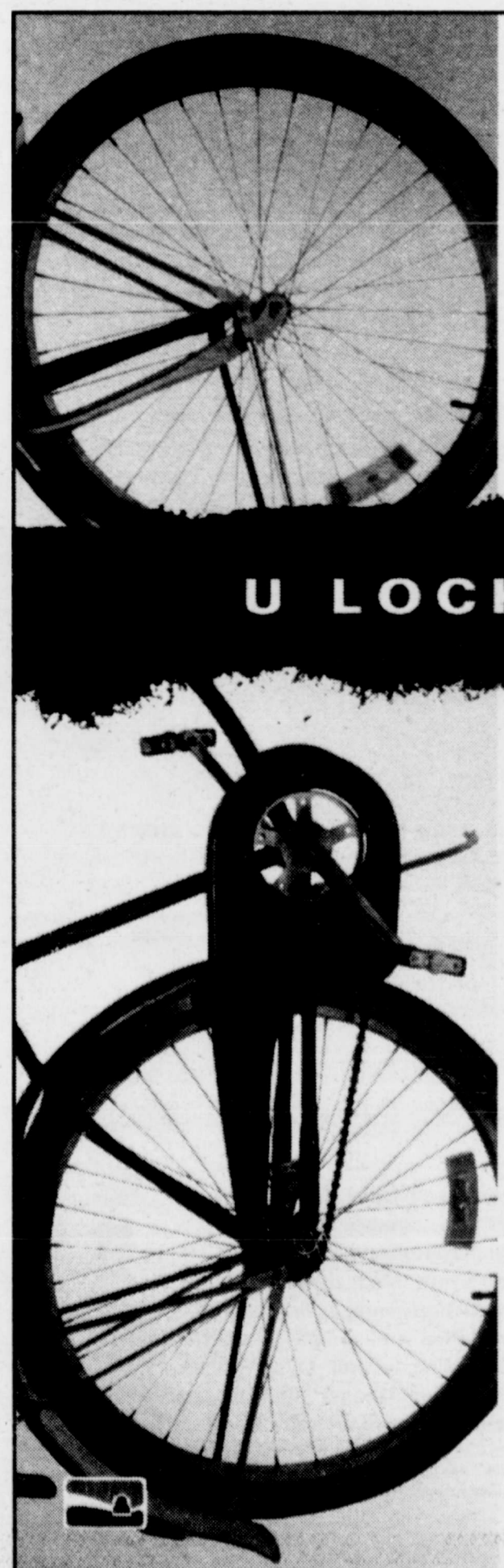
Early Wednesday, dozens of police in riot gear evicted hundreds of striking teachers — many still groggy with sleep — camped in front of Congress in the capital, Lima.

But the main target of the measure was the farmers, who have blocked Peru's roads with boulders and burning tires to demand lower taxes on some crops and protection from imports. Other sectors are demanding higher wages.

"We have the responsibility to govern 26 million Peruvians. We have the responsibility to protect citizens and the public order," Toledo said in a nationally televised address announcing the state of emergency Tuesday.

The state of emergency gives police and the military the authority to use force to clear the highways, restore order, detain strikers and enter homes without warrants. It also limits freedom of movement and prohibits public assembly.

Briefs compiled from The Associated Press wire service by Mustang Daily news editor Andra Coberly.



LOCKING A BIKE isn't always enough.

Bolt cutters easily slice through cables — you might call them "quick release" locks. A case-hardened U-lock is more secure. If you use a regular padlock, here's some tips to ward off thieves:

U LOCK, YOU ROCK

- Lock your bike somewhere that's well-lit.
- Don't leave your bike locked overnight in a rack.
- Lock parts attached with quick-release mechanisms.
- Also, write down the make, model and serial number of your bicycle and keep it with you.

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Poly not the place for PDAs

In this heat, it's easy to get caught up in pleasure. I, for one, have very little self control. Fro-yo isn't so healthy when it becomes an orgy of toppings and hot fudge. I watch "Y Tu Mama Tambien" and book a cruise to Mexico. One salsa dance lesson and I change my whole wardrobe. But, despite my irreverence for moderation, there is one thing I can't stand to see or do too much of: Public Displays of Affection (PDAs).

It seems that our campus is littered with smoochy couples pawing at each other between classes. Why does spring have to mean a smorgasbord of hand roaming, tongue-flapping grossness?

One particularly saliva-prone couple was so disturbing, I cried out "Bleeeccchhh!" before I could stop myself. But am I the only one who feels this way? Is Shallon Lester again the conservative fuddy-duddy of Cal Poly? This week I'd like to know: What's the deal with making out in public?

First of all, what is considered public?



Sex and San Luis

I'd say anyplace where sobriety is the norm, like Wal-Mart, the bank and especially on campus. If you're likely to bump into a professor, you'd better keep your hands to yourself. I know what you may be thinking: "Shallon, you saucy little vixen, didn't you just write an article about where to hook up on campus?" Indeed I did, but not one of those places was El Corral Bookstore, University Union Hour or the reserve room. Get it on wherever you like; just be sure it's not making everyone else nauseous.

"If it's in an eating situation, it's damn gross," Summer says. "You just want to get up and wash your hands!"

But if you're at the bars, a party or are surrounded by equally sappy couples,

then it is acceptable.

Like teddy bears and Christian rock, there is a fine line between the cute and the disgusting. When does subtle affection become gross-me-out exhibitionism?

"There's a PDA ceiling which, upon being breached, leads to a lot of social uneasiness for the surrounding individuals," noted my brainiac neighbor, Matt. What he says is certainly true – a few kisses are OK, but once the tonsil hockey starts, it's Awkward Fest 2003 for everyone else.

"I think people also use PDAs to make other people jealous or to mark their territory ... but I've never done that – muuaah ... muah-hahahahah!" laughed super-villain Shelby. If you're on the receiving end of some public affection, you may not like the idea that his or her kisses are signs of possession. What's next? Peeing a circle around you?

Some may argue that two people expressing their love is a wonderful, beautiful, magical thing. Yes it is ... behind closed doors! If you are a PDA perpetrator, you probably think that you and your honey look like two movie stars, swept up in the magic of the moment.

Well, you don't.

This same principle applies to making a homemade porno, possibly the worst idea ever. As much as I love porn, I prefer it in the hands of professionals, where it belongs. Unless your partner is a professional lighting director, you'd better take a sedative before watching the tape. The camera will add 10 pounds of weight and 40 pounds of ugly.

No matter what your stance on the PDA debate, one thing is true: If you're single, the publicly affectionate are more revolting than a Joan Rivers swimsuit calendar. But once you find that special someone, your mind may drift to what you could be doing with your sweetheart.

This week, make the most of the heat, whether it is in the air or in your heart! Take a cold shower for two or cool off with a midnight skinny dip. I guarantee the mercury won't be the only thing on the rise!

Shallon Lester is a speech communication senior who freezes her lingerie to keep cool. For questions, comments or the sudden need to take a cold shower, e-mail her at shallonlester@hotmail.com.

Campus buildings aren't attractive; new projects don't make sense

Cal Poly has one of the most sprawling campuses and is one of the most selective schools in California. Its engineering, agriculture and architecture programs are renowned nationwide. The campus is situated just 10 minutes from the Pacific. The University's philosophy is "learn by doing," and students do just that by completing senior projects which showcase

their abilities in their chosen major.

Commentary

If this sounds like an advertisement for Cal Poly, it is. Cal Poly is everything listed above and more.

More engineering buildings and less space for liberal arts. More buildings being added and fewer older buildings being kept up.

For a school that boasts the best engineering and architecture students and professors in the country, it's fair to expect a campus both appealing to the eye and capable of comfortably housing all the majors offered.

Cal Poly does have buildings which epitomize both beauty and functionality, such as the Orfalea College of Business building, but why do the majors Cal Poly is most known for get all the attention while the rest of the majors are left in the dark?

Granted, engineering, architecture and agriculture need space and resources history and speech communication

don't. But are these often overlooked majors any less important and deserving of a place to call home?

Too often, students take history classes crowded in the agriculture building, and Spanish classes in the math and science building, where space is cramped.

The journalism department has been squeezed into the Graphic Arts building for decades.

The education building has been one of the only steps taken toward equality for liberal arts.

Cal Poly may be a Polytechnic school, but it is first and foremost a California State University, and if a major is offered, it seems fitting that students in that major have room to work and sufficient resources available.

True, engineering is the largest department, but with only a little more than a thousand students than liberal arts. Engineering had 4,782 students as of Fall 2002, and liberal arts had 3,143 students. Agriculture had slightly more than liberal arts with 3,783 students, and architecture and environmental design had only 1,837 students total, according to Cal Poly Quick Facts.

Despite these numbers, there is currently an Engineering III building being

built. Additionally, many buildings on campus appear in a half-finished state, such as the Robert E. Kennedy Library, which looks more like a maximum security prison than a library in its dull gray state. This is no work in progress. It was completed in the 1980s. The facility cost \$11 million to build; was there not a cent left over to add a decent paint job?

Another building project currently underway is Student Housing North. The number of students on campus is increasing, and more dorms are necessary, but how about building some dorms less extravagant than the "village" that is being proposed and fixing up the prison-like, vegetation-free "transfer" dorms?

If Cal Poly has the funds to support buildings like welding and the rose float house, why not improve what is here and build what is needed before getting too exuberant with the new, sometimes unnecessary building projects?

Samantha Yale is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Letter to the editor

Why isn't marriage just another tradition

Editor,

Michael Swanson, although distanced from reality, has quite a vivid imagination ("Commentary used a flawed argument," May 20). With Jerry-Falwell-meets-Murphy's-Law reasoning, he argues "nearly any marital arrangement" would spring up, should marriage be recognized as a legal contract and "nothing more." Some of his possibilities include "marital unions consisting of two brothers, or a father and son ... How about the person who has deep love for their pet and is willing to make a lifelong commitment to it?" Michael is being preposterous, but this is not unprecedented for him. Does he truly believe an "incest revolution" is only staved off by its illegality? Or that a beastiality epidemic would tear society apart, given state acceptance?

Swanson's absurdity peaks with his denial of marriage as a "social construction." Therefore, marriage is independent of society and "unchanging with the times"? Marriage is on par with a law of physics? Mike is speaking rather supernaturally for a philosophy student, and his claim is demolished by any seventh grade world history book. The tradition of marriage has changed vastly over geography and time, albeit not usually to the extent of Michael's perverted speculations. Past and present customs have included the purchasing of wives, bridal "scarification," pre-ceremonial sexual interludes between the king and bride, etc. Biblical times saw no problem with polygamy, despite Swanson's current disapproval.

It's useful to glorify society's norms as "absolute," so that

acts of defiance may be punished as "sacrilege," but Swanson offers no reason to believe that marriage has ever been more than tradition.

Justin Fraga is an electrical engineering senior who is tired of all this simple-minded "absolutism."

Letter policy

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Is killing an unborn child murder?

The Laci Peterson murder case emotionally forced the government and public to bring fetal homicide laws to the forefront of debate in America. Both the Senate and House of Representatives are discussing a federal law that would give an unborn child rights independent of its mother. Exempting abortion, the law would make the murder of a child a separate offense to the crime committed against the expecting mother.

Commentary

Organizations that oppose the Unborn Victims of Violence Act see the bill as an opportunity to promote the anti-abortion agenda. Instead of passing a law granting rights to fetuses, Congress should design a law that supports stronger punishment for criminals who commit acts of violence against pregnant woman, affecting her pregnancy.

According to the Natural Right to Life Committee, 26 states currently have fetal homicide laws that distinguish fetuses as victims of federally stipulated crimes committed against the pregnant woman. Fourteen states perceive the fetus as a victim during all stages of development, and 12 states declare the fetus is a victim only after specific development stages.

California is among the 12 states with fetal homicide laws, recognizing the fetus as an independent legal entity after seven weeks of growth. According to California state law, Laci and Connor Peterson's killer can be charged with two separate

crimes. The prime suspect, Scott Peterson, is being charged with double homicide.

There is a need for a federal law addressing this issue because problems exist such as a person crossing state borders to commit a crime against a pregnant woman where the punishment is less severe. Also, crimes committed on military bases are not subject to state law, and there is no protection for a pregnant woman who does want to have the baby.

The House of Representatives previously approved acts similar to the Unborn Victims of Violence Act in 1999 and 2001, but they were not acted on in the Senate. With a conservative majority presently in Congress, the bill has a good chance of passing. President George W. Bush expressed his support of such a bill and would sign it into law if it reached his desk. Laci Peterson's family sent a letter to Congressional leaders encouraging the lawmakers to pass such a bill and name it "Laci and Connor's Law."

Although the bill specifically exempts abortion as a crime, opposing organizations still see it as a tool for anti-abortion activists. National Organization of Women, American Civil Liberties Union and National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League claim the bill would eventually create a foundation for annihilating the Supreme Court case Roe v. Wade, which protects a woman's right to have an abortion.

The ACLU said the bill "would be the first federal law to recognize a fetus at any stage of development, from concep-

Protection for pregnant mothers who want to keep their babies should exist, but it should exist without granting legal rights to unborn babies.

tion forward, as an independent victim of a crime with legal rights distinct from the woman who has been harmed by a violent criminal act."

Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., proposed the Motherhood Protection Act in compromise to "Laci and Connor's Law." Lofgren's proposal creates additional punishments for perpetrators of crimes against pregnant women that jeopardizes their pregnancy.

Protection for pregnant mothers who want to keep their babies should exist, but it should exist without granting legal rights to unborn babies. Implementing fetus legal rights sets up interpretation of the law that could make abortion murder.

Anti-abortion supporters must be careful that they do not interfere with the civil liberty of a woman's right to choose. Although many religious and conservative groups believe that abortion is murder, the government must protect women and the freedom to do what they believe is right for their bodies.

Allison Terry is a journalism sophomore and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Text messaging needs etiquette rules as well

Recently, there was a suit in Australia concerning the unfair dismissal of an employee via a text message. According to a CNN.com article, a Sydney air traffic controller, John Eid, received this message from his employer on his mobile phone, "Its (sic) official, you no longer work for JNI Traffic Control and u (sic) have forfeited (sic) any arrangements made," his lawyer told the court.

Of course this guy is just enraged with the whole situation, and frankly, I would be too. What? Don't people have any professionalism or decency anymore? What ever happened to writing letters or calling someone in the office for the big letdown?

The whole text-messaging phenomenon has really given good old-fashioned face-to-face communication a run for its money. More and more people are jumping on their phones to type a few quick words in and smack the "SEND" button and voila, a hand typed memo is now in the hands of the receiver. Sure that's fine for saying you're going to be five minutes late meeting your friend at Starbucks, but telling someone they're fired or even worse is a little ballsy.

So what is the etiquette for text messaging? First of all, don't send important information via text messaging. Don't be lazy or chicken shit. Get on the phone and get your business done the polite way. A friend of mine got dumped via text message. She was absolutely crushed and pissed at the fact that this jerk sent her a text message to tell her he wasn't interested anymore. Another poor victim of the text messaging letdown received a message that her boyfriend was seen at Frog and Peach with another girl, and they didn't look like they were just hanging as friends. How inconsiderate could a friend be that they couldn't walk outside the bar and call their friend to tell her that her boyfriend was cheating on her? Only cowards use the text messaging excuse to let someone down.

There are, however, instances where text messaging is totally acceptable and sometimes needed. Use text messaging to send sweet messages to your honey. If you are one of those significant others who find themselves constantly wanting to let your honey know how much you love them, then text messaging is way better than calling and possibly making an annoyance of yourself. "LUV U QT PIE" is perfect. It's quick, and to the point.

Another great use for text messaging is fighting with someone. Instead of wasting precious breath and emotion yelling at someone, just send them text messages. I've been in a situation where I ended up laughing at my old psycho roommate during the final spat before she disappeared in the wind. We were sending each other all these raging messages. I am sure she was getting all flustered and heated, but as for myself, I was cool as a cucumber. I was actually laughing. It was so much easier than telling her how much of an idiot she is over the phone.

Text messaging has its do's and don'ts. If you are ever in a situation where text messaging is an option, weigh it out. Think if you were on the other end, then go from there. Or you could always have this awesome opinion piece in your wallet for future reference. Whatever floats your boat.

Amanda Hippe is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Letters to the editor

President still not trustworthy

Editor,

Joel Bigelow said, "(He) believes the Bush administration has earned our trust" (Bush administration has earned America's trust, May 21). What is required for a leader to earn trust? Should they start wars against the will of the majority of the world? Should they deny "war for oil" policies only to have them proven true after the fact? Should they do what they feel is right while ignoring any opposing opinion? Should they attempt to create a world empire outlined by the PNAC (Plan for the New American Century) all in the name of exploiting the tragedy and suffering endured by our entire nation since Sept. 11? Or should they just say every thing we want to hear, and then do the exact opposite? Rumsfeld was shaking Hussein's hand during the heaviest chemical weapons assaults on Iran and the Kurds. Not to mention the Pentagon sold Iraq the helicopters and the chemical/biological weapons agents. Bush vowed that Iraq's oil reserves belong to the people, but failed to mention that the funds will end up in Corporate America because they received the "no bid" contracts for reconstruction. Afghanistan may have no oil, but they are the most efficient route through which the Caspian oil reserves can be channeled to barges waiting to transport them to American SUVs. In closing I ask you all to visit www.newamericancentury.org and discover how our history has been planned and executed by those in power and then discuss whether our leaders are out to protect us, or exploit our tax dollars to further their own interests. Furthermore, don't hesitate in researching Halliburton and subsidiaries, Bechtel, Enron and the Carlyle Group.

Tylor Middlestadt is a architectural engineering sophomore who thinks America needs a refresher on the definition of Fascism.

Capps protects Central Coast from pollution

Editor,

I am extremely pleased at the recent actions of Rep. Lois Capps, D-Santa Barbara, to protect Central Coast residents from long-term effects of military pollution. Recently she has:

1. Opposed the war in Iraq, knowing the long-term detrimental impact that weapons testing has had on our water, soil, agricultural crops, coastal wildlife and health of our children and babies here on the Central Coast.

2. Voiced her opposition to the Bush administration and Republican Party's attempts to weaken the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Clean Water Act and superfund by creating an exemption for the military from the above environmental standards (Readiness and Range Preservation Initiative).

3. Introduced legislation to curb perchlorate poisoning in the Colorado River and vegetable fields of California. The Preventing Perchlorate Pollution Act would accelerate the establishment of an EPA standard for perchlorate, and require the enhanced access to community "right to know" information about perchlorate contamination from Vandenberg and Edwards Air Force bases' missile launches,

and weapons testing from other military sources on the Central Coast.

Rep. Capps speaks for millions of Californians concerned about military toxics in our state. My cap's off to Capps!

Sheila Baker is a San Luis Obispo resident.

Short and to the point

Editor,

I am the smartest man in the world.

Shaun Keating is a business junior who, in addition to being the most intelligent human being, is also the most humble.

Campaign didn't go over \$500

Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on a recent letter sent into the Mustang Daily regarding campaign spending here on campus. Mark Beck-Heyman, you claim that Alison Anderson and Olga Berdial spent more than the \$500 they stated. What you and many other students don't know (or even bothered to ask about) is that every single student who wore a "Alison-Olga" T-shirt purchased it themselves. That's right, this means that they were not given the shirts. Every one of those 250 students chose to spend their money supporting candidates in which they believed. Mark, I would like to encourage you to do your research before you report "facts" that are untrue. If you or any other student here on campus has doubts about the campaign spending, I invite you to check out the figures yourself in the Associated Students Inc. office.

Cecily Raya is an architecture senior.

Skateboarding a legitimate form of transportation

Editor,

After reading the article in Thursday's Mustang Daily about the huge price hike in skateboarding tickets ("A more expensive hobby," May 22), I was shocked. I cannot believe that people are going to be paying \$122 for a first offense. A brand new skateboard costs less than \$122! Why doesn't the University Police Department just take the skateboard? It would be cheaper. That is like having a \$10,000 dollar fine for a car driving where it is not supposed to be.

C'mon people, it seems like whoever enacted these fines lives in the same bizarro world as those who price things in the airport. These fines are so far from being fair that it's laughable. The third offense is \$320. That's more than I pay for rent each month. What happens if you're busted a fourth time? Automatic death sentence? The sad thing about all this is that most skaters aren't skating to school to grind rails and do damage to school property. Most skaters, myself included, skate as a means of transportation to and from school. Once the school board realizes that skating is more than a destructive hobby, maybe something could get done.

Tommy Zimmermann is a computer engineering sophomore.

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Arts & Culture

Biting the Big One

**A Mustang Daily reporter's
harrowing tale of consuming a
legendary hamburger**

STORY BY
GRAHAM WOMACK

PHOTO BY
CARL CLAUSSEN

Stuffed

It takes training, strict diet to perform at peak level of gluttony

By Graham Womack

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Special sauce smears my face as I devour a gigantic hamburger still too big to pick up.

My roommate Russell Prentice, a mechanical engineering sophomore, sits across from me in our booth, taking a minute-by-minute account of my quest for digestive immortality.

"3:15," Russ writes, looking at me hunched down over my burger. "Looking like a fool; a fool with a mission."

I've wanted to eat the "Big One" since moving to Los Osos, the home of Sylvester's Hamburgers. Weighing in at 2 1/2 pounds, the burger has five tomato slices, 13 pickle slices and enough lettuce to make a shirt.

It is also the only burger I've heard of that requires a \$20 deposit in advance, but eating it is a badge of honor. Anyone who attempts to eat the monstrosity gets his or her picture wall on Sylvester's back wall. Finishers get their eating times emblazoned at the bottom of their wall-mounted Polaroids.

Seventy of the 95 people who have attempted to eat the "Big One" have finished. As I've spent a whole year living on a rich carbohydrate diet of rice, chips and instant mashed potatoes, my chance of both becoming the 71st person to finish the burger and gaining some much needed weight is high.

"Most skinny guys can eat it. Big guys have problems," cook Gary

Dailey said. "Skinny guys chow it down."

Ten minutes in and with already more than a third of the burger finished, I'm certainly not on any record pace. The all-time record holder at Sylvester's finished in an ungodly 5 minutes and 10 seconds. A former Morro Bay High School wrestler, he beat a dog to reclaim his title.

I'm feeling dogged myself, though, as I pass the halfway point on eating my burger, about 15 minutes into my quest. Russ takes note of my plight.

"Feels like an Indian on the plains of the Mississippi eating the last buffalo," Russ writes.

My other roommate, aerospace engineering sophomore Carl Claussen, and his girlfriend Meghan Reerslev, a journalism sophomore, are also on hand, sitting in the booth across from me, eating normal 1/3 pound hamburgers. It's getting harder to live up to their cheers though. I feel rude as I start belching incessantly. Meghan's cool about it, all the same.

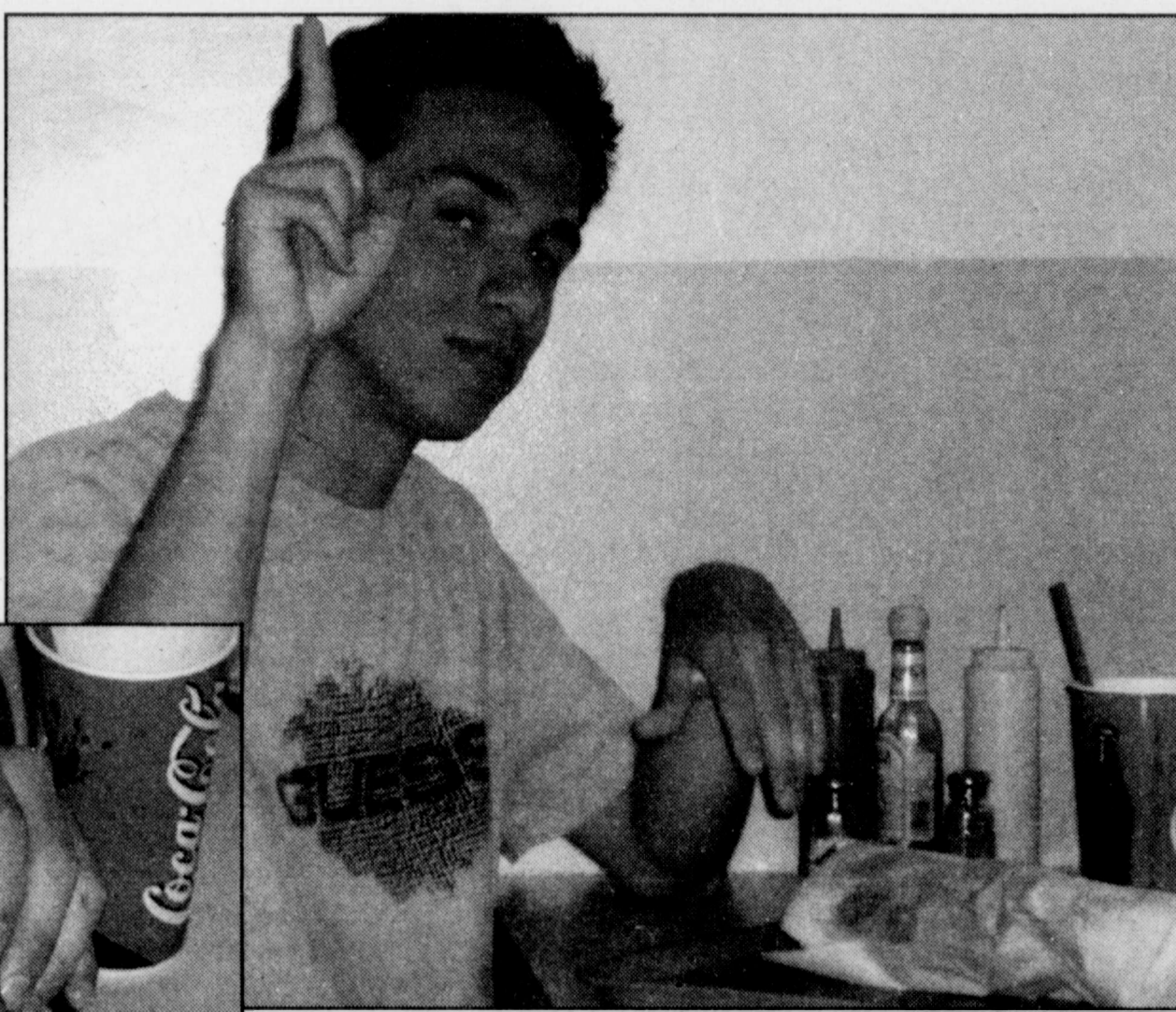
"You have to clear room in your

stomach," she says.

Russ is less polite in his note taking.

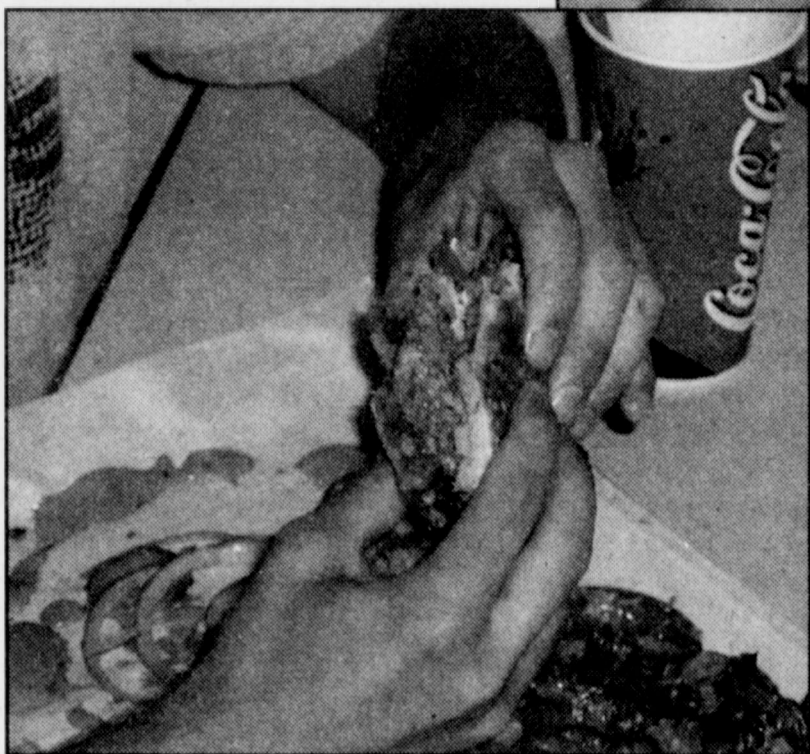
"3:32: Feeling like a fermenting bag of walrus herpes," Russ writes.

I'm on a negative exponential scale of eating. Every bite closer I get to finishing the burger, the slower I eat. It



CARL CLAUSSEN/COURTESY PHOTOS

The Look of a Champion: Reporter Graham Womack (above) basks in the afterglow of finishing The Big One (left), a 2 1/2 pound hamburger, at Sylvester's in Los Osos. It took our fearless hero a mere 47 minutes and 30 seconds to polish it off. There was no reported time on how long the burger stayed in his system.



I'm crawling toward the finish, taking small nibbles.

Carl and Meghan look at me with blank stares, their own meals long since finished. Russ begs me to stop being a pansy and just put the last bite in my mouth.

I finally oblige and polish off the burger in 47:30. I wonder if I can walk out to my car and how the drive home will affect me.

"3:59: Stomach about to rupture," Russ writes.

It will be another day before I want anymore food and several

hours before I can even think normally. I'm by no means as formidable as the bikers who once came in, ate double patty Buffalo burgers, corn dogs, milkshakes and a basket of fries, BEFORE eating the burger. Still, I finished.

I go home with orders to use the upstairs bathroom.

Carl and Meghan look at me with blank stares, their own meals long since finished. Russ begs me to stop being a pansy and just put the last bite in my mouth.

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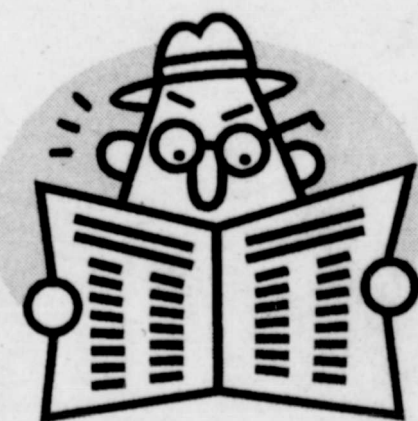
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Local Music

San Luis Obispo's own version of Audioslave — sort of

► Don't mistake their sound; punk bands join forces to form veritable supergroup

By Josh Petray

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

New Tomorrow has regrouped and refueled with the addition of two new members from former San Luis Obispo pop punk band Two Hand Touch and will play at the Vans Warped Tour 2003 this summer in San Francisco.

Brandon Wood, former lead singer of Two Hand Touch and an English junior, is now the lead singer of New Tomorrow and will replace former lead singer/guitarist Joseph Lee. Along with Wood comes a new, darker sound, complemented by the lead guitar of Mark Kinnick, former guitarist for Two Hand Touch.

New Tomorrow — now comprised of Wood, Kinnick, bassist James Scherz, guitarist Adam Kratchvil and drummer Justin Sears — had performed in various venues in San Luis Obispo along with Two Hand Touch, including Club SLO Brew, and it's no coincidence that the bands merged.

"We were all good friends in the past and we played shows together," Wood said.

Wood is energized and enthusiastic about New Tomorrow's plans for the

future. The fact that three days after Two Hand Touch broke up New Tomorrow announced it would be losing its lead singer and guitarist because they graduated from Cal Poly was a blessing in disguise.

"I'm just happy to be playing and performing music again because it's what I love most," Wood said.

The range of sound and theme in their songs varies, judging from the 10 tracks they have compiled.

"The sound of New Tomorrow is taking a step away from the pop generation," Scherz said.

Wood noted that the lyrics he wrote for the band's 10-track compilation so far, along with the band's overall presence — marked by all five band members dressed in black — is all about the band becoming a bit darker, Wood said.

"I think everybody has a darker side. I don't hide anything," he said. "When we get on stage, our message is that this is who we are, and we're not fake."

Songs like "Apollo," a pop punk song about a failed moon landing, or "Big Lights Deep Graves," a darker, melodic song about burying people out in the desert, are songs they have written since they first got together about two months ago, Wood said.

On a lighter note, there's "Making Blue Alone," which Wood said is a song about, "my personal struggles and my ability to become what I want to be." This track represents another side of New Tomorrow's music that is about

friendships and relationships.

"When we get on stage, we let people know that we're enjoying ourselves and having a good time, so if you're not, then we will anyway. That's our attitude," Wood said. "It's just good to see fresh ideas and fresh faces. It's definitely different than Two Hand Touch and what New Tomorrow were."

The songwriting process for New Tomorrow involves the input of every band member, and no one is excluded from the creative process.

"Everybody collaborates in our music," Wood said. "It's even-handed."

Upcoming concert dates for the band include Saturday May 31 at the BMX and Band Blowout, Tuesday June 3 at Club SLO Brew, a benefit show June 7 in Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo High School's graduation night.

In what will be their biggest show since the band regrouped, New Tomorrow is also scheduled to play at the Warped Tour on the Local Heroes



COURTESY PHOTO

Armed with a new sound described by singer Brandon Wood as 'scream punk,' New Tomorrow — (left to right) Adam Kratchvil, James Scherz, Wood, Justin Sears and Mark Kinnick — is set to play the Warped Tour in San Francisco this summer. They will play the BMX and Band Blowout on campus Saturday.

stage when the tour comes to San Francisco this summer.

For Wood, the excitement and anticipation was overwhelming.

"It's a big step for us," he said.

For Scherz, his love for music comes from an appreciation of his fans, along with a love for music and years and years of dedication.

"The excitement is overwhelming and it's pushing the antics to the boundaries of explosions," Scherz said.

And the band is ready to take these antics to the boundaries of new genre classifications, as well.

"New Tomorrow is a mixture of old school punk with some new pop punk," Wood said. "I would call it scream punk."

New Tomorrow plans to record its first album in June and to tour the West Coast in July. Check out www.newtomorrowmusic.com for more information from the band.

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WHEEL

continued from page 1

raffle to audition, Danis was selected to solve practice puzzles while being videotaped. Danis said the show coordinators were looking for enthusiastic students who looked like they were having a good time.

Meeting the judges' standards, Danis was asked to go to second round tryouts in Avila Beach. There she took written tests and interviewed with contestant coordinators.

"They asked me to pretend like I was spinning and solving puzzles with lots of energy," Danis said.

Two weeks later Danis received a letter congratulating her on becoming a contestant. The former Cal Poly Dance Team captain was originally asked to tape her episode during Homecoming Week, but had to reschedule for Feb. 21.

Accompanied by six of her

▼ "It was all worth it. I'd do it again because it was such a good time."

Breanna Danis
math senior

friends and dance team members, Danis went down to Sony Pictures Studio in Los Angeles for the filming.

"It was an all day thing, starting at 9 a.m. and going 'til 6 p.m.," Danis said.

She said the day started by filling out legal forms and talking with the show's lawyers about the details involved with winning money. The contestants then met Vanna White and Pat Sajak.

"Vanna came out without any makeup on and was so cool," Danis said. "She was down-to-earth and Pat was really funny too."

The contestants then practiced spinning and solving puzzles on the set before the taping began.

"The audience was filled with

friends and family members who were all cheering each other on," Finkel said. "There was so much excitement in the air."

Danis ended the day by taking second place.

"I won more puzzles than the winner, but he spun the wheel for more money," Danis said.

Not discouraged, Danis still walked away a winner, recommending her experience to anyone.

"It was all worth it," Danis said. "I'd do it again because it was such a good time."

The show will air tonight at 7:30 p.m. on KSBY channel 4.

"Wheel of Fortune" is currently celebrating its 20th anniversary with Vanna and Pat as the hosts.

DUNES

continued from page 1

tion, soil moisture and nutrient level and bioremediation, where organisms are used to break down contaminants, are also being analyzed at the site.

Both biology and engineering students are working on the project. The biologists are working on evaluating bacteria and plants, while the engineers then connect those processes to the remediation of the dunes, Kitts said.

The biological work consists mainly of field work, collecting data samples and analyzing them. The engineering approach involves the isolation of variables in a lab setting

▼ "Everything we're doing is giving evidence that the environment is doing something. We're helping with assessing the use of other technologies such as the land treatment, the use of willow trees and phytoremediation."

Chris Kitts
biological science professor

and determining their effect on the environment.

The research of both fields is necessary to determine the best course of action. This is because different locations throughout the habitat may require a different approach to rehabilitation, Kitts said.

"There may be a series of situations, and each requires a different approach," Kitts said.

Another benefit of the university's work is determining which method will have the largest impact on the environment. In this way Unocal can use the research to evaluate how much time is required to restore the habitat, Ririe said.

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Saturday, May 31, 8pm
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Sunday, June 1, 3pm
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Tuesday, June 3, 8pm
Thursday, June 5, 8pm
RSVP III: THE VOICE WITHIN
Presented by Cal Poly Music Dept.
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Wednesday, June 4, 6pm
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Thursday - Saturday, June 5-7, 8pm
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PLAN B

continued from page 1

pens," Perez said.

The Health Center is adamant on making sure females don't use this as a form of birth control.

"This is an emergency prescription only," Davis said. "Students should not stop practicing safe sex because they know there is a fix for the mistake they made."

The pills must be started within

72 hours after unprotected sex. The Plan B pill has been called the better pill on the market because it lacks the side effects of nausea and vomiting.

At the Health Center, an appointment is needed with a doctor or nurse practitioner that will involve an assessment including menstruation history, an account of what happened at the time of intercourse and any other unprotected sexual encounters during the student's menstrual cycle. The prescription cost is \$10 and available the same day as the appointment.



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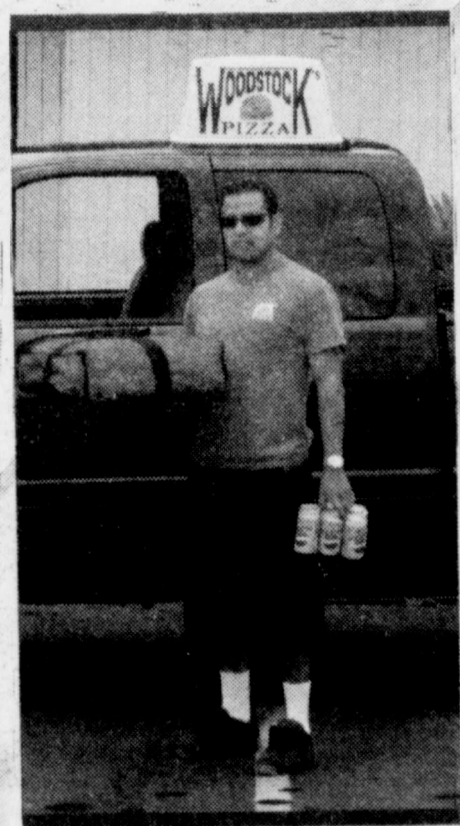
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BIKING

continued from page 12

events of the season in San Luis Obispo.

Armed with cyclists who Rozelle said "not only enjoy riding, but are very good at it," the team quietly prides itself on a string of successes. This includes not only winning conference championships in mountain biking for the last five years but also placing in the top three schools in the conference for road racing.

"People also join for social aspects, including finding people to go on group rides with and various other activities," Rozelle said. He also noted that the terrain around Cal Poly caters to riders of all sorts, so those interested riders should not be intimidated.

"Mountain biking in this area especially is great for the college student," Rozelle said. "It provides to us relatively limitless access to many miles of trails suitable for all skill levels and preference."

Denson agrees.

"We have so many mountain bike trails of all terrain and difficulty that I never want to leave this place," he said.

The two recommend several ver-

satile rides, including Poly Canyon, which is convenient and easy for beginners but full of areas in which riders can develop their own mountain handling skills, and Montana de Oro, which offers beautiful views, primarily pleasant weather and trails that range from five to 20 miles. Shooters and Rock Garden on Madonna Mountain received honorable mention from Denson, who offered a warning with all of his ride suggestions.

"To live in San Luis (Obispo) and own a bike is like owning a snorkel and fins down in the Caribbean," he said. "Cause once you go for one ride around here, you'll be hooked."

Such was the case for the 90 to 100 riders currently registered as official Wheelmen (and women).

Becoming a Wheelman requires registering with Cal Poly Rec Sports and paying a \$40 fee, which entitles members to a free T-shirt, team food at events, "all sorts of schwag" and even opportunities to snatch pro deals through big-name cycling companies, Denson said.

Those interested in joining the team are invited to participate in any of the group rides and to attend weekly meetings of the Wheelmen, which are held Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in building 52, room E27.

VESSEY

continued from page 12

be better.

"I'm never satisfied," Vessey said. "If I win, I'm not satisfied with the time. I'm searching for a race where everything goes right."

Vessey wants to continue her success in the future, and Crawford likes her chances.

"She has the capabilities to become a professional runner after college," Crawford said.

No matter how much Vessey

focuses on her own races, she still wants her teammates to do well, she said. When they run, she said she's out there yelling for them. But she tries to block it all out once it becomes her own time to shine.

"They say track is a team sport, but when you're on the line, it's all you," she said.

Vessey will attempt yet another win soon.

After defending her title at the Big West championship in the 800 May 17, Vessey will travel to Stanford for the NCAA Regional Championship Friday and Saturday.

NOTEBOOK

continued from page 12

(189-6). Kaylene Wagner will compete in her first championship as the No. 1 ranked high jumper in the West Region (6-1.50). Other Mustangs ranked in the West Region top-10 are: LeBren Martin, fourth in the 400 (57.69), Courtney Stafford, seventh in the triple jump (40-11.75), and Maggie Vessey, 10th in the 800 (2:08.01).

Baseball

Youth camps to be held this summer

CAL POLY SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Four Larry Lee Baseball Camps and an all-star camp will be held this summer in San Luis Obispo County.

The four Larry Lee Baseball Camps, for youngsters 7 to 18 years old, will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the cost of each camp is \$160.

The first session runs from June 23 through 26 at SLO Stadium (Sinsheimer Park), with the second session set for July 7 through 10 at Paso Robles High School's Bearcat Park. The third session is scheduled for July 14 through 17 at the Soto Sports Complex in Arroyo Grande while the final session is slated for July 21 through 24 at SLO Stadium (Sinsheimer Park).

The instructional staff includes Cal Poly head baseball coach Larry Lee and two of his assistant coaches — Jerry Weinstein and Chal Fanning.

The all-star camp will be held July 30 through August 3 and is geared primarily for high school-aged juniors and seniors. The camp will be divided into two groups — 13 to 15-year-olds and 16 to 18-year-olds — and the cost is \$499 for non-commuters and \$299 for commuters.

For more info or for a registration form, call 756-1201.

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Cal Poly's Maggie Vessey

'My job is to win'

► Junior Maggie Vessey has worked her way into the NCAA's track elite

By Katie Schiller
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly track and field athlete Maggie Vessey doesn't count on pre-race superstitions to help her win; she relies on good old-fashioned practice.

In March, With this attitude, she won sixth place in the 800 meter at the National Collegiate Athletic Association Indoor Championships.

For the past three years, she has dominated the track with her running ability and dedication.

"It's not the hair tie that's going to make me win," Vessey said. "It's how much I've been practicing."

Going into the NCAA Indoor Championships, Vessey was ranked 15th. After winning sixth place, she said she was glad to have been the underdog.

"She had a great breakthrough this year to become one of the top 800-meter women in college during the indoor season," head coach Terry Crawford said. "With her potential, she is a candidate to make the NCAA Outdoor Championships."

When Vessey started to experience winning as a college athlete, she was motivated to do more, she said.

"I got a taste of success and I just wanted more of it," she said. "When you have a Cal Poly uniform on, you're not messing around. I have a job, and my job is to win."

This attitude has helped her become a major force in Cal Poly track and field over the past three years. Besides the 800, Vessey runs the 4 x 400 relay and the 400.

"She's a super athlete," Crawford said. "She has been a big factor in the things our women's team has accomplished over this last year."

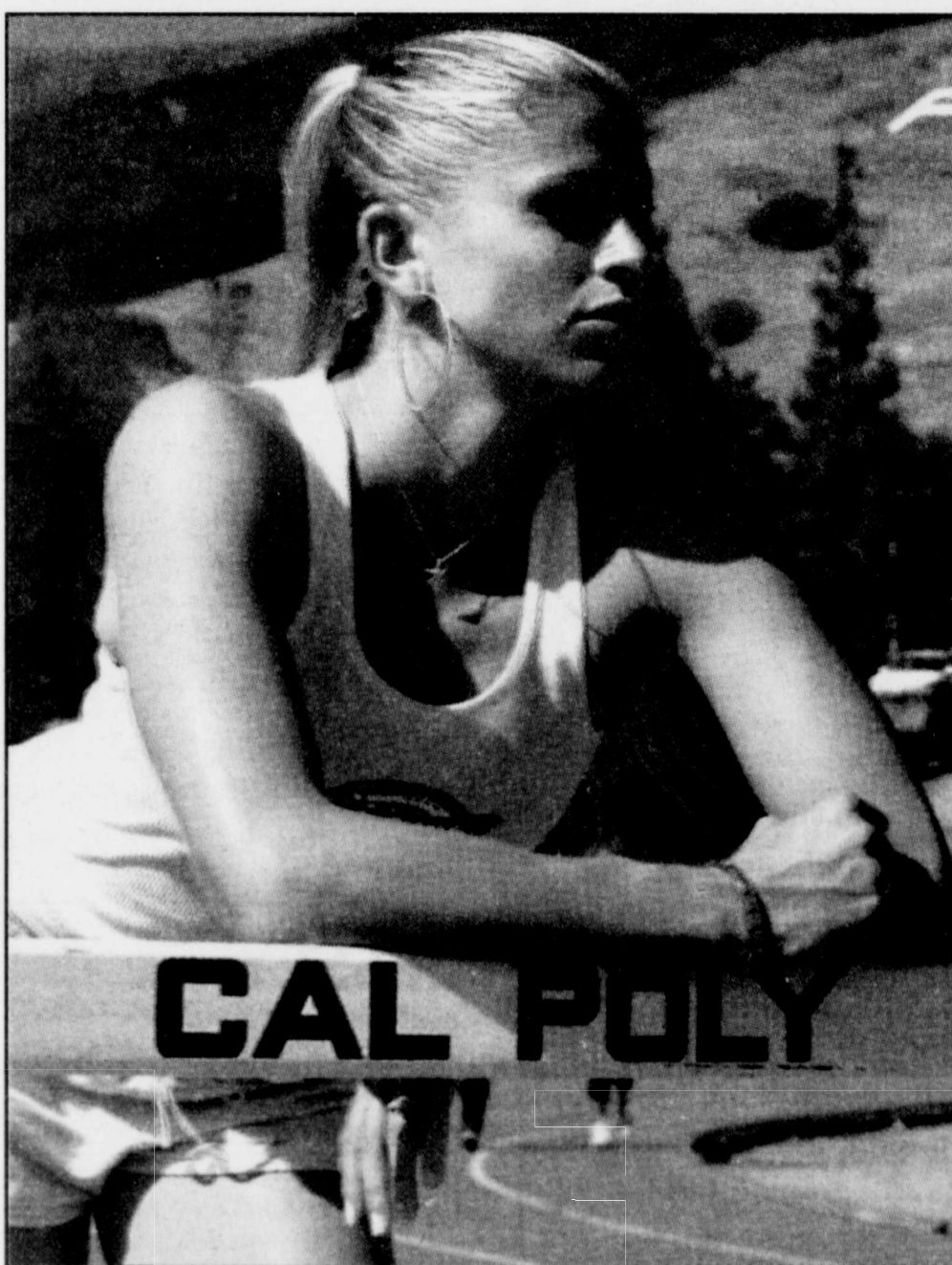
Originally from Santa Cruz, Vessey started running in sixth grade. Track came easily to her, she said.

"Unlike track in high school, every meet in college is important," she said. "I have much better competition now."

Although she has been running for a long time, she still gets very nervous before races, she said. Instead of checking out the competition, she usually just focuses on herself.

"At the beginning of a race, I don't look around me," Vessey said. "When I run, everyone else is the enemy."

Vessey has set many goals for her running career. With practice every day and meets almost every weekend, she has devoted a lot of her time to the sport. Even so, she still strives to



MATT WECHTER/MUSTANG DAILY

Maggie Vessey recently defended her Big West title in the 800 meter sprint. This weekend, she'll try to advance to nationals.
see VESSEY, page 11

Mountain Biking

Pedaling straight to the top

► The Cal Poly Wheelmen explore mountain biking trails in the county

By Emily Frydendal
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Although Cal Poly is a year-round home to a large community of athletes from countless families of sports, spring quarter especially inspires groups of athletes like the Cal Poly Wheelmen to happily roll out of the woodwork. It's at this time that members are able to take advantage of the top rides in San Luis Obispo County and search for new participants.

"The Cal Poly Wheelmen are a group of students who come together to share their love for anything with two wheels," president Danny Rozelle said.

And according to John Denson, the team's mountain bike race coordinator, Cal Poly students have been coming together to form the Wheelmen since the early 1980s. In recent years, they've been making quite a name for themselves.

As part of a conference consisting of 13 normally competing schools in California and Nevada, Rozelle said Cal Poly is "known for putting the largest number of competitors in all race categories and holding the best



KATIE ZEAL/LEAR/MUSTANG DAILY

English senior Jim Muff rides his bike on a trail through Poly Canyon. It's one of many trails used by the Cal Poly Wheelmen, a group of cyclists who train year-round for mountain biking competitions.
see BIKING, page 11



Notebook

Track and Field
Mustangs travel to West Regional

CAL POLY SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

The Cal Poly men's and women's track and field teams are back in action on Friday and Saturday at the 2003 NCAA West Regional hosted by Stanford University at Cobb Track and Angell Field in Palo Alto. The competition will start Friday at noon with the field events. Running events will begin at 4 p.m. on Friday. The meet continues on Saturday with more field events beginning at 10 a.m. and the finals of the running events.

The men's track and field team qualified 14 athletes to compete at the regional, with four of those athletes ranked in the top-10 in the West Region. Ben Bruce holds the best mark in the 3,000 meter steeplechase (8:40.85). Tyrone Ward is second in the long jump with a 26-1.75 qualifying mark and is sixth in the region in the 400 (46.57). Travis Morse is seventh in the 100 (10.41). Ryan James is third in the region in the javelin (235-11.75).

On the women's team, 10 athletes qualified to compete at the West Regional this weekend. Stephanie Brown will lead the Mustangs as she is ranked number one in the west region in both the shot put (56-0) and the discus

see NOTEBOOK, page 11

STATS

By the numbers

854

The Cal Poly baseball team averaged 854 fans per game this season, 507 more than last year. Cal Poly's smallest crowd this season was 575 for Dartmouth on March 23. The largest crowd in 2002 was 604 for UC Santa Barbara on May 26, the last game of the season.

TRIVIA

today's question

Joe Dimaggio's 56-game hitting streak in 1941 is still the longest ever. Who has the second-longest streak, and in how many consecutive games did they hit safely?

Submit answers to: jljackso@calpoly.edu

Last week's question

What is the name of the Cal Poly fight song?
Ride High ye Mustangs

Congratulations Justin "Snakeeyes" Robinson and Adam Grenier!!

Sports editor Jacob Jackson can be reached at 756-1796 or jljackso@calpoly.edu.